

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /068 W
-----109887 142339Z /64

O 142329Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6643
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
ALL OTHER CANADIAN CONSULATES POUCH

UNCLAS OTTAWA 01281

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, CA, US, PN
SUBJECT: TRUDEAU SUPPORTS PANAMA CANAL TREATY

PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU INDICATED TODAY (MARCH 14) HIS
STRONG SUPPORT OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY DURING THE
FOLLOWING EXCHANGE WITH A MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATIVE
OPPOSITION.

"HEATH MACQUARRIE (CONSERVATIVE): MR. SPEAKER, I WOULD
LIKE TO DIRECT A QUESTION TO THE PRIME MINISTER, TO WHOM
I HAVE GIVEN NOTICE. MY QUESTION CONCERNS THE PANAMA
CANAL TREATY CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION BY A
LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER OF OUR STRONG ALLY AND NEIGHBOUR,
THE UNITED STATES. I DO NOT INVITE THE PRIME MINISTER
TO INTRUDE UPON THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE AMERICAN
SENATE; NEVERTHELESS, IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE TO THE
COMMERCE AND COMITY OF OUR WESTERN HEMISPHERE AND THE
WHOLE WORLD OF ASSURED OPEN ACCESS TO THE CANAL, COULD
THE PRIME MINISTER INDICATE THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERN-
MENT AND PEOPLE SUPPORT THE EARLY CONCLUSION OF AN
AGREEMENT BETWEEN PANAMA AND THE UNITED STATES AS A
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VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO HEMISPHERIC AND INTERNATIONAL
GOODWILL?

"TRUDEAU: MR. SPEAKER, I APPRECIATE THE WAY IN WHICH
THE HON. MEMBER HAS ASKED HIS QUESTION BECAUSE CANADA,
OF COURSE, IS NOT A PARTY TO THIS TREATY. HON. MEMBERS
ON THIS SIDE OF THE HOUSE AND, I AM SURE, HON. MEMBERS

OPPOSITE WOULD NOT WANT TO INTERVENE IN A LEGISLATIVE PROCESS WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEFORE THE UNITED STATES SENATE. HOWEVER, I THINK I CAN SATISFY THE HON. MEMBER BY REFERRING HIM TO THE SO-CALLED DECLARATION OF WASHINGTON WHICH WAS SIGNED AND ADHERED TO BY EVERY WESTERN LEADER, HEAD OF STATE OR HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, WITH ONLY ONE EXCEPTION, WHEN WE CONVENED IN WASHINGTON EARLY LAST SEPTEMBER. WE SIGNED THAT DECLARATION OF WASHINGTON BECAUSE WE FELT THAT IT WAS A DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD BRING STABILITY TO THE HEMISPHERE. IF I MAY QUOTE TWO PHRASES FROM THAT DECLARATION, I AM SURE THE HOUSE WOULD SEE THE POSITION OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AND, I BELIEVE, THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT ON THIS MATTER.

'WE CONSIDER THAT SETTLEMENT OF THE PANAMA CANAL ISSUE REPRESENTED A MAJOR STEP TOWARDS THE STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS AMONG THE NATIONS OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE ON THE BASIS OF COMMON INTERESTS, EQUALITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF EVERY STATE. WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE FOR HEMISPHERE AND WORLD COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION OF ARRANGMENTS FOR ASSURING THE CONTINUING ACCESSIBILITY AND NEUTRALITY OF THE PANAMA CANAL.'

"THEREFORE, THE GOVERNMENT CERTAINLY JOINS WITH THE VIEW EXPRESSED BY THE OPPOSITION THAT THIS TREATY IS
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CONDUCTIVE TO BRINGING GREATER STABILITY TO THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE."
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, CANALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OTTAWA01281
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780114-0110
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780371/aaaaciau.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b8e3f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3340585
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRUDEAU SUPPORTS PANAMA CANAL TREATY PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU INDICATED TODAY (MARCH 14) HIS STRONG SUPPORT OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY DURING T
TAGS: PEPR, CA, US, PN, (TRUDEAU, PIERRE ELLIOT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b8e3f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014